

JOURNAL OF THE

Board of Public Improvements.

Regular Meeting.

(OFFICIAL.)

St. Louis, December 19, 1900. The Board met in its regular meeting at 10 o'clock, A. M., at the Board of Public Improvements, under the chairmanship of the President, E. W. Flad.

EDW. FLAD, Secretary Pro Tem.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Office of the President of the Board of Public Improvements, St. Louis, December 20, 1900. Public notice is hereby given that the Board of Public Improvements will hold a special meeting at the hour of 10 a. m. of the 27th day of January, 1901.

At its office, Room 20, in the New City Hall, at the corner of Broadway and the matters hereinafter named, to wit: No. 504. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 14, from Eighth street to Spruce street and between First street and Second street.

No. 505. Board's Motion, for reconstructing eastern north and south alley in city block No. 74, from Chouteau street to Board street and between Third street and Fourth street.

No. 506. Board's Motion, for reconstructing western north and south alley in city block No. 74, from Chouteau street to Board street and between Third street and Fourth street.

No. 507. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Third street and Broadway.

No. 508. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 509. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 510. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 511. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 512. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 513. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 514. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 515. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

No. 516. Board's Motion, for reconstructing alley in city block No. 104, from Butler street to Convent street and between Broadway and Sixth street.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

To the People of the City of St. Louis:

In submitting to the people of St. Louis a report on the Public Schools for the year ending June 30, 1900, I have to congratulate them upon the excellent condition of all the schools, the work done and the progress made, and upon the increasing prospect we are able to hold out for the future.

The Board of Education, under the leadership of the Superintendent, has had the honor to secure efficiency in all branches of its work, and its officers to recognize merit as the only valid claim to employment, and by conferring upon the officers of the Board a degree of freedom and a measure of authority somewhat in proportion to their responsibilities.

For detailed information as to the departments of Instruction and Buildings, I must refer the reader to the reports of Superintendent Soltan and Commissioner Itiner. The report of Secretary and Treasurer Hammerstein gives the annual balance sheet and certain tables of expense which it has been customary to publish from year to year.

FINANCIAL. The following table exhibits the sources of the Board's net income for current expenses, and the several amounts received from each:

Table showing financial details including Receipts (Taxes, Delinquencies, etc.) and Expenditures (Salaries, Buildings, etc.) for the year ending June 30, 1900.

The net expenditures of the year have been as follows: Contingent funds, \$1,000.00; Salaries, \$1,000.00; Buildings, \$1,000.00; etc.

The table of expenditures shows a few more words of explanation. Some insurance is carried on the public school buildings, but the ordinary school buildings are not insured.

It seems possible that our present resources to spend about three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) annually on new buildings and the reconstruction of old ones.

During the year an unusual number of buildings were finished and opened for use. The 'Sherman' Flat A. V., near Vandeventer, containing 20 rooms.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. Although formal recognition has always been given in the case of benefactions to the schools, it is fitting that public mention of them should be made in the Annual Report.

ST. LOUIS PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION LAUNDRY. 1726 N THIRTIETH ST. Continues to serve an appreciable public with clean, white, and well-kept laundry.

WILLIAM F. HOMER, H. J. DIEKMEYER, President, Secretary.

Missouri State Mutual Fire and Marine Insurance Company. Office No. 77 Chestnut St., St. Louis, Mo.

J. E. C. Lucas, Director. J. D. Walker, Secretary.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE NUMBERS, FOR EACH YEAR OF AGE, FROM EIGHT TO SIXTEEN INCLUSIVE, FOR THE THREE YEARS 1897-1899, SEPARATELY. THEY ARE TAKEN FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (C) WHICH CONTAINS THE NUMBERS FOR ALL AGES AND GRADES.

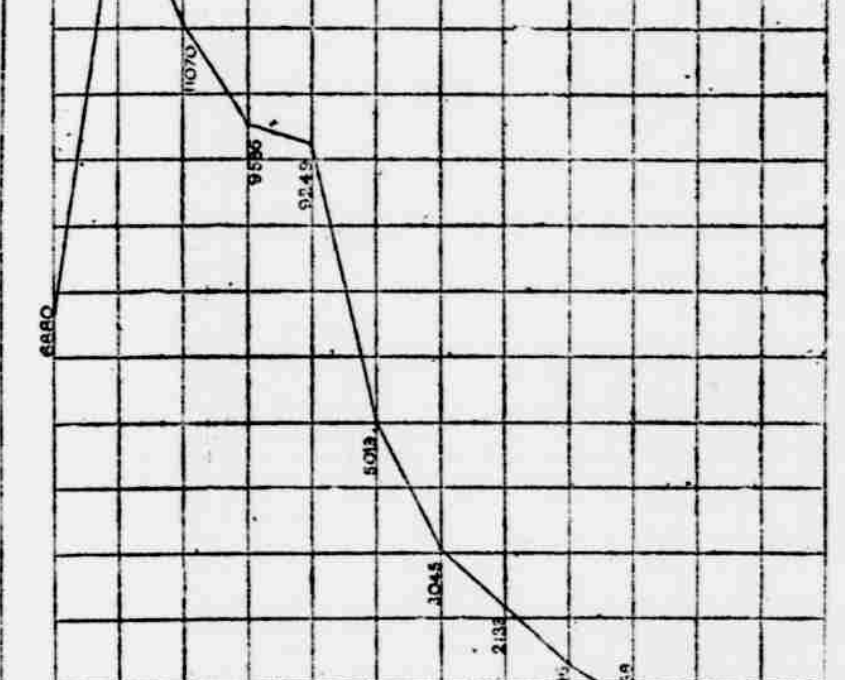
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR DIFFERENT AGES, (C) School Years.

Table showing school attendance for different ages (8 to 16) for the years 1897-99, 1898-99, and 1899-1900.

It will be seen from the table that the number of children in school last year who were fourteen years old was 4,007, very nearly the same as for the year 1898-99, when it was 3,877, and again for 1897-8, when it was 4,002.

Let us now look at other reports of the Superintendent, and see from what grades these pupils drop out of school.

The following diagrams constructed from data furnished by Superintendent Soltan show the 'number in actual attendance' in each grade in November in the years 1899 and 1900.



Attendance by Grades, November, 1899.

A glance at either the figures or the bounding curves will show that there is a vast falling off at the end of the fourth grade and again at the end of the fifth grade.

These figures answer the question I asked above as to the grades from which the greater number of children drop out. The answer is from the fourth and fifth grades.

AGES OF PUPILS IN THE FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADES. The following table shows the ages of pupils in the fourth and fifth grades for the years 1899 and 1900.

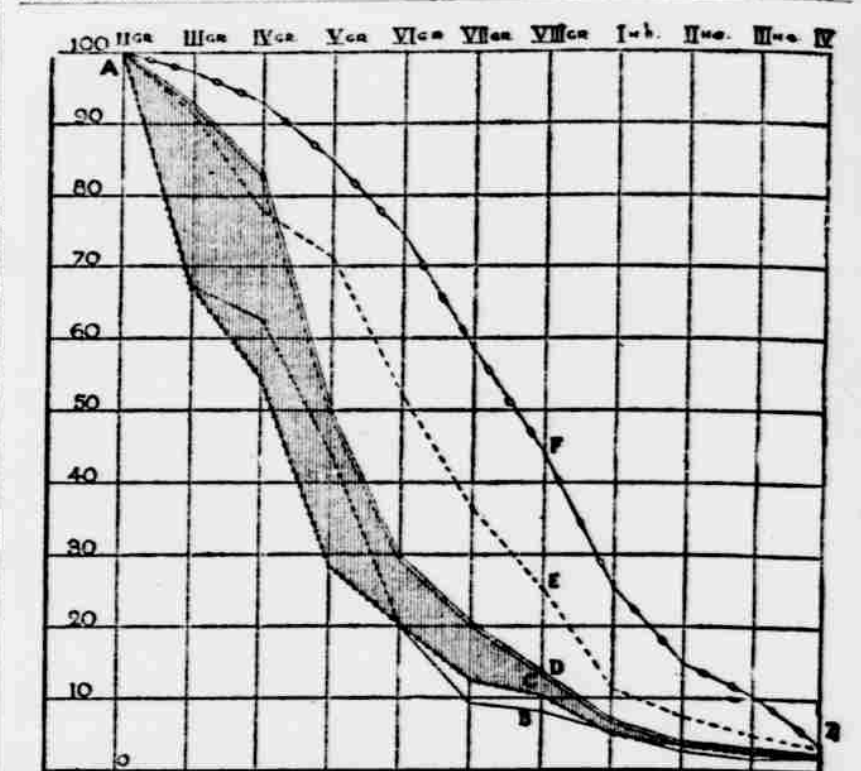
Table showing ages of pupils in the fourth and fifth grades for the years 1899 and 1900.

AGES OF PUPILS IN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES. The following table shows the ages of pupils in the fifth and sixth grades for the years 1899 and 1900.

Table showing ages of pupils in the fifth and sixth grades for the years 1899 and 1900.

Here the loss is very largely among the older pupils. The amount of the loss shown by these two tables is appalling. In spite of skillful teachers and expert superintendents, nearly all children of our boys and girls every year stop going to school.

COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE, ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO AND BOSTON. The following table compares the attendance of St. Louis, Chicago, and Boston for the years 1897-1899, 1898-1899, and 1899-1900.



The first line of the table gives the average persistence deduced from two St. Louis reports in the twenty years 1880-1900.

The second line gives the average persistence for the three years just preceding the partial introduction of free text-books in St. Louis in 1899.

The third line gives the 'persistence' in St. Louis schools to-day made from the average for the last two years.

The fourth and fifth lines give similar figures for Chicago and Boston Public Schools, taken from their last two reports.

The sixth line of the table is represented by the plain line ABC in the diagram. The distance of that line from the base line OAB shows the degree of persistent attendance of St. Louis children twenty-one years ago.

The hatched line (---) ABC, represents the persistent attendance of St. Louis children at the present time.

The dotted line (---) ABC, represents the persistent attendance of Chicago public school children at the present time.

The line (---) ABC, represents the persistent attendance of Boston public school children at the present time.

Both the table and the drawings prove what has been proved before, viz: That Chicago children are longer in school and get more education than do St. Louis children; and that Boston children stay still get more education than do St. Louis children.

Not only do I thus compare the work we are doing with what is done in the foremost of American cities, but I compare what we are doing to-day with what was done in St. Louis ten and twenty years ago.

The above is an exceedingly interesting and valuable exhibit. It shows at a glance just where St. Louis stands, both as regards its former records, and as compared with the highest standards.

We can point with pride to our kindergartens and to the quantity and quality of the work done in the primary grades. We have reason to be well satisfied with the quality of our workmanship in the upper grades; it is only in regard to the quantity that we are disappointed.

Does then, the responsibility rest upon the Board of Education, and upon former School Boards? It is a measure it does not seem to me that it is the duty of the Board to see to it that the city does not suffer through ignorance of what means and appliances are requisite and adequate for the proper education of its children.